



Over the last three years, 912,445 people in California have collected FED-ED extension benefits and since they are paid by the federal government, that's pumped an additional \$5 billion into the state's economy during the turbulent recession period.

The FED-ED extension, otherwise known as the Extended Benefit program in other parts of the U.S., is paid to qualified jobless workers after they have already run out of their 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits and then all of the other federal extension benefits available (Federal Extension Tiers 1, 2, 3 and 4). During this recession, claimants have been potentially eligible for up to 99 weeks of unemployment benefits – up to 20 weeks of FED-ED benefits combined with up to 26 weeks of regular UI benefits and the up to 53 weeks of benefits provided through the four tiers of federal extensions. Such benefits help lessen the financial impact on jobless workers, their families and their communities.

### **Range of Benefits Without FED-ED**

According to the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, approved by the U.S. Congress and enacted on February 22, 2012, the elimination of the FED-ED extension does alter the number of weeks available in other federal extensions, specifically in the tier 4 extension. From May 13, 2012, until May 20, 2012, there will be up to 89 weeks of total benefits available to unemployed Californians. This includes up to 26 weeks on the initial regular unemployment claim followed by four federal extension tiers of unemployment insurance.

For individuals filing a tier 4 extension with an effective date of May 13, 2012, or May 20, 2012, the potential maximum weeks available on their tier 4 extension could include up to 16 weeks of benefits, 10 more weeks than the tier 4 extensions filed prior to these dates. The federal law does not allow individuals who have filed tier 4 extensions with an effective date prior to May 13, 2012, the increased potential maximum number of weeks. Here's the breakdown of benefits:

- Up to 26 weeks of initial regular unemployment claim
  - Up to 20 weeks of the 1<sup>st</sup> tier of federal extension
  - Up to 14 weeks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier of federal extension
  - Up to 13 weeks of the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier of federal extension
  - Up to 16 weeks of the 4<sup>th</sup> tier of federal extension
- POTENTIAL TOTAL OF 89 WEEKS

The federal legislation requires another change for tier 4 extensions filed with an effective date of May 27, 2012, through August 26, 2012, when total available benefits will drop to a potential maximum of up to 79 weeks. The breakdown would be the same as above except for the potential maximum weeks available for the 4<sup>th</sup> tier would drop from up to 16 weeks to up to 6 weeks for individuals who file a tier 4 extension with an effective date of May 27, 2012, through August 26, 2012. Here's the breakdown of benefits:

- Up to 26 weeks of initial regular unemployment claim
  - Up to 20 weeks of the 1<sup>st</sup> tier of federal extension
  - Up to 14 weeks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier of federal extension
  - Up to 13 weeks of the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier of federal extension
  - Up to 6 weeks of the 4<sup>th</sup> tier of federal extension
- POTENTIAL TOTAL OF 79 WEEKS

The potential total maximum weeks available will change again in the fall due to the recent Congressional action for extensions. The benefits associated with extensions filed between September 2, 2012, and December 23, 2012, are contained in the chart below.

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**Current Benefits Status**

Currently, there are more than 1.1 million people certifying for benefits in California. The majority of these customers are collecting on a federal extension claim while the remainder are somewhere in the midst of a regular unemployment claim.

Between regular and federal extension benefits, the EDD has paid a total of \$17.1 billion in unemployment benefits for calendar year 2011 and \$4.65 billion so far this year (as of April 13, 2012), and is currently paying about \$310 million a week. These benefits provide critical sustenance to unemployed workers and their families, in addition to local businesses, where much of the benefits are spent on basic needs.

While the FED-ED extension is ending in May, all other federal extensions are scheduled to conclude at the end of 2012.

**Current UI Extended Benefit Duration & Claim Deadlines**

Here is a breakdown of the filing deadlines for federal extension benefits and the total maximum weeks of unemployment benefits available in California:

<b>Federal Unemployment Benefit Extensions Potential Maximum Weeks Of Benefits Provided</b>					
<b>Claim/ Extension Filing Date</b>	<b>Feb. 19 – May 6 2012</b>	<b>May 13 – May 20 2012</b>	<b>May 27 – Aug. 26 2012</b>	<b>Sept. 2 – Dec. 23 2012</b>	<b>Claim/Extension Filing Deadline Date</b>
<b>Regular Claim</b>	Up to 26 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Once someone becomes unemployed
<b>Tier 1</b>	Up to 20 weeks	Up to 20 weeks	Up to 20 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	December 23, 2012
<b>Tier 2</b>	Up to 14 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	December 23, 2012
<b>Tier 3</b>	Up to 13 weeks	Up to 13 weeks	Up to 13 weeks	Up to 9 weeks	December 23, 2012
<b>Tier 4</b>	Up to 6 weeks	Up to 16 weeks	Up to 6 weeks	Up to 10 weeks	December 23, 2012
<b>Separate FED-ED</b>	Up to 20 weeks	0 weeks	0 weeks	0 weeks	May 6, 2012
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Up to 99 weeks</b>	<b>Up to 89 weeks</b>	<b>Up to 79 weeks</b>	<b>Up to 73 weeks</b>	

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Current federal law authorizes the payment of federal unemployment extension benefits through the end of 2012. After that, the payment of all federal unemployment extension benefits will end unless Congress and the President take further action to enact legislation that further extends the federal extension program.

### **Customers Who Have Run Out of Maximum Benefits**

Through Monday, April 16, 2012, there have been 664,649 claimants who have fully exhausted all available unemployment benefits, up to 99 weeks of benefits in total.

Unemployed individuals may be eligible for assistance to meet basic needs, as well as other services, such as health care, counseling, employment and training assistance. For more information, access [Assistance for Unemployed California Residents](#) on the EDD website in the Unemployment section, where you can also find the Job Dislocation Brochure: [English](#) | [Spanish](#).

In an effort to help our customers understand more about the program and how the potential end to the program could affect them, we have developed some new frequently asked questions for FED-ED on the [FAQ – Extended Unemployment Benefits page](#).

For any further developments in the Unemployment Insurance program, as well as all other EDD programs and services, we encourage our customers to watch for updates on our [website](#) and on our EDD [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

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For news media inquiries only, contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Communications Office, at (916) 654-9029. TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.